THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) The Ministry of Labour has not held a National Convention on Human Rights in Delhi. No Action Plan relating to child labour if suggested in any such convention has been received.

(b) Does not arise.

Indian Workers in foreign countries

2451. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian citizens working/employed in foreign countries;

(b) the names of such major countries where Indian citizens are employed; and

(c) country-wise number during the year 1988-89 and 1989-90?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Oil slick in the Bay of Bengal

2452. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an oil slick has been moving fas in the Bay of Bengal threatening Sunderbans forests besides animal and plant life;

(b) if so, he detaails thereof; and

(c) what measures Government have taken to tackle this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) An oil slick was sighted in the Bay of Bengal in the territorial waters of Bangladesh about 40 kms. south of New Moore Island. The slick had been deportedly caused when crude oil was being transferred from a Singapore based tanker to a small Bangladesh tanker off the Chittagong coast. It was initially 13 Kms. long but later split intoo small patches. According to latest information the slick is not visible in the Sunderbans area and does not pose any threat to animal and plant life and mangrove forests in Sunderbans.

(c) As the slick is not presently visible, no action is required to tacle it. However, the concerned authorities have been alerted to continue monitoring the environment of the Sunderbans area.

Exploitation of Mineral Deposits in Indian Ocean

2453. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "India joins race to top mineral-rich Indian Ocean" appearing in The Pioneer, New Delhi edition of 24th February, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have imported any technology know-how to carry out explanatory work in the Indian Ocean; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what efforts are being made to train the manpower in mining of seabed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The item describes at length the efforts being made by India in the field of deep seabed mining.